



July 21, 2021

Frederick County Sustainability Commission  
Meeting Minutes



The meeting was held via WebEx.

Per current practice, the meeting is also streamed live on Facebook at Frederick County Sustainability Commission and made available via phone (**1-855-925-2801, Code 9813**) for listening.

**Present:** Chair: Elizabeth Law, Vice-Chair: Faith Klareich, Secretary: Mark Sankey, Bill Steigelmann, Jennifer Bird, John Ferri, Jim Reed, Tiffany Fossett

**Frederick County Council Liaison:** Not Represented

**OSER staff:** Shannon Moore, Dawn Ashbacher

**Guests/Public:** Ben Springer (PT)

### **Opening**

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm by Betty Law and she initiated a moment of silent reflection. John Ferri led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mark Sankey asked for any discussion on the minutes of the Commission meeting of June 16, 2021. The minutes were approved by the Commissioners unanimously without comment.

### **Election of New Officers** – All

Betty commented on her tenure as Chair and her present focus on other issues.

Faith discussed her desire to defer chairmanship for one year and continue as Vice-Chair. She shared her thought to give John a full opportunity to serve as Chair since his tenure was interrupted by Covid.

John Ferri acknowledged to be considered as Chairman and asked if any other nominations were desired. None were.

Betty noted Mark Sankey's desire to continue to serve as Secretary for the coming year.

The slate of thus nominated officers was unanimously approved. To confirm the officers for the coming year:

Chair – John Ferri

Vice-Chair – Faith Klareich

Secretary – Mark Sankey

As Chair, John directed the meeting from this point forward. He noted the work done in the last year including formation of focused sub-committees, support of forestry initiatives, and Creek ReLeaf affirmation. This segued into the next topic.

### **Annual Report** – Commission Discussion – All

- John noted the Commission By-Laws call for communication with the County Executive (CE). An Annual Report aligns with this.
- John posted the By-Laws and highlighted the communication duties and then shared a form he created to address those duties. He will issue the form for review and input
- As the Exec Committee for the past year, Betty, Faith, and Mark will compile the report for review.
- In response to a question from Bill regarding potential meeting with the CE, John explained his background and purpose. In summary, the form addresses communication with the CE.
- John mentioned the skills matrix developed by Faith and noted its value. It will be circulated for review.

### **Subcommittees** –All

- Sustainability Awards – Faith, Jenn, Dawn

Faith reviewed the status of the process. The application packages will be distributed by Dawn by the end of the month. Discussion and voting for approval will be held in August.

- South Frederick Corridor – Faith, John, Tiffany

No further update is available as work continues on the draft report which will be submitted to the Commission for review.

- Green Resources Energy Action Team (GREAT) – Bill, John, Faith, Ron

The group will meet on Friday for updates. They are reviewing available programs and funding for building energy efficiency.

- Sugarloaf Mt Corridor – Mark

The report remains on hold, release date unknown.

## **OSER Update** – Shannon, Dawn

- Shannon provided updates.
  - The County received a Trust Fund Grant for Creek ReLeaf.
  - Restoration projects continue. Stream work is in Emmitsburg and Thurmont and pond work in
  - Cooperation with MWCOG on EV infrastructure, GHG inventories, and risk assessment continues.
  - OSER has a new employee, William Lacy, to serve as a GIS technician.
  - Shannon reported that MWCOG has voted to support expansion of I-270 expansion and designation of toll lanes as part of regional transportation planning.
- Dawn's comments
  - Dawn reported that the Regional Solar Coop program remains open for new members. Weatherization and energy use improvement are included in promotion of the program. The next virtual presentation will be held August 3 and will include local installers.
  - Efforts go forward to promote education on environmental issues.

## **Commissioner Interest** - All

- Bill was asked to update CEMWG's work, in Ron's absence.
  - The group is working to finalize its report and recommendations.
  - Faith commented on her work and support..
- Bill reported that the Jefferson Ruritan microgrid project is proceeding. The first monthly report will be submitted by the end of July.
- Betty commented on the issues related to the planned road through Ft. Detrick property. Politicking is involved. She noted that part of the concern is that bio-weapons research was part of the facility's work and contributed to the dumped material at the site.
- Jim advised that a new wildlife conservation program will soon be unveiled. Stay tuned for an update next month.

## **Public Comment**

2 minute limit per person

No public comments.

### **Letter of Interest – Commission Appointment** – Ben Springer

Ben had joined the meeting at about 3:30 pm to observe. He reviewed his experience with climate, energy, and clean energy issues. He resides in Myersville on a dairy farm and pursues regenerative agriculture and advises on federal and state efforts.

### **Motion to Go into Closed Session**

A motion was made and seconded to go into closed session.

The meeting was proposed to be in closed session pursuant to Maryland Annotated Code General Provisions Article 3305(b) (1) To discuss: (i) The appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or official over whom it has jurisdiction; or (ii) Any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.

The vote was unanimous to do so at 3:55 pm and the Commission entered closed session at 3:59 pm.

### **Open Session**

The Commission returned to Open Session at 4:15 pm. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:17 pm.